1980 District Champs

Lady Red Devils want repeat performance

The Rustburg High School Lady Red Devils won their first game of the season last Tuesday, a 67-27 victory over Nelson County.

In their second game Thursday night against Liberty, however, the Lady Red Devils fell in a close 56-49 contest.

In his first year as head coach of the girls' varsity basketball team, Haywood McCrickard expects his team to do well, and he hopes their performance will equal that of last season's squad.

Last season, Rustburg's varsity girls' basketball squad compiled a 13-5 record during the regular season, and won the Seminole District tournament.

Cindy Lewis, the Lady Red Devils' leading scorer last season, will again this year be an important part of the Rustburg offense. Lewis averaged 25 points per game last season, and she has compiled more than 1,200 career points at Rustburg.

Sarah Jackson, Marjorie Dyke, and Amanda Jackson, all seniors, are also veterans of last season's Lady Red Devil squad who are playing on this season's team.

Other players returning include Angie Jones, Joy Sampson, Judy Dixon, Lisa Roberts, and Wendy Ward.

Newcomers Teresa Barbour, Kathy Charlton, and Yvette Rosser round out the Lady Red Devil roster this season.

This early in the season, McCrickard says that he will probably go with veterans Lewis and A. Jackson at the guard spots, S. Jackson at center, and Dyke and Charlton at forwards for his starting five.

"Our quickness and our experience are definitely our strong points," McCrickard says. "Most of our players have returned from last season's squad. We don't have much height, though," the coach adds.

THE 1981 RUSTBURG HIGH SCHOOL LADY RED DEVILS: (from left, kneeling) Marjorie Dyke, Cindy Lewis, Sarah Jackson and Amanda Jackson; (standing, from left) Joy Sampson, Lisa Roberts, Judy Dixon, Cathy Charlton, Teresa Barbour, Angie Jones, Yvette Rosser, and Wendy Ward. Coaches Haywood McCrickard and Pat Bell flank the girls standing on the left and right, respectively.

The coach notes that in the Lady Red Devils' first contest of this season, the 67-27 shelling of Nelson County, "we did very well on the fast break."

McCrickard adds that ball handling and the general movement of the team were also good points of play in that first contest.

In the second game, which the girls lost to Liberty, defense, particularly rebounding, was a problem, according to McCrickard.

The Rustburg defensive game is anchored by Marjorie Dyke and Sarah Jackson, both rated as strong rebounders by McCrickard.

McCrickard, who is coaching the girls' varsity basketball team for the first time this year, is no stranger to the sport. He has coached the varsity boys' team for several years.

Asked if he found coaching a girls' team difficult, McCrickad said, "No, although at first I though I might."

He counts Appomattox and Liberty as among the toughest competition in the Seminole District this season. William Campbell will also be a tough team, according to McCrickard's early season predictions.

And, of course, he believes his team will be in contention for the Seminole District crown this year.

"I hope we can do as well this season as we did last year, when we won the district tournament," McCrickard concludes.

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1981 Varsity Red Devil Football Team

Devils gear up for serious Seminole challenge

Rustburg High School's varsity Red Devils football team blasted Jefferson Forest in Saturday night's season opener, 34-21, in the first of what could be a string of victories for the Red Devils.

The victory included a 233-yard, two-touchdown performance by tailback Bill Scott, as well as scores by John Blankenship, David Smith and Lincoln Wood.

Two of the scores came on passes from quarterback John Rosser.

The Red Devils, who posted a 7-3 record last season, will likely be a Seminole District powerhouse this fall, if experience means anything.

Wood, Blankenship, Scott and Smith are all veterans, as are most of the offensive linemen. Tony Bagby is a center for the Red Devils, Jerry Leffers and Tim Jennings are the guards, and Edgar Anderson and Randy St. John are the Red Devils' offensive tackles.

The Red Devils, who Saturday night stymied Jefferson Forest's offensive efforts throughout most of the game, run an eight-man line on defense.

The inside guard spots on the Red Devils' front defensive line are filled by two sophomores, Preston Petty and Charles Brooks. Rustburg's defensive tackles include David Peters and Ken James, and Orlando Burks and David Moore are at the outside linebacker spots.

Inside linebackers for this year's Red Devil team include Tony Hirtz and Tony Jones, and the halfbacks are G.R. Campbell, John Blankenship and David Smith, the latter two of whom will both see action in the deep defensive secondary.

"We'll play about 20 kids, rotating different players at different positions," says Red Devil head coach Ray Wade.

Wade notes that he is hoping that his team will retain good balance on offense between the running game and the passing attack. In Lincoln Woods and John Blankenship, Wade has two proven receivers.

And, after Saturday night's game, it looks as if Wade has found a good passer in Rosser,

(Continued on page 6)

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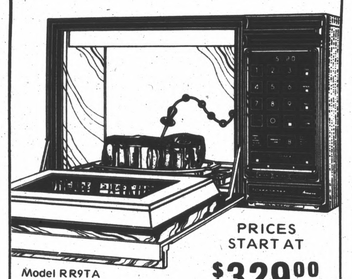

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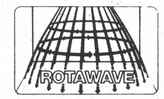

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